

SELECTBOARD MINUTES

November 7, 2018

Present: Michael Strait, Jonathan O'Keefe, Ed Barber, Rick Hannux, Jeff Johansen, Mike Paradis, Charlie Pronto, Lindi Pronto, Heather Robinson; Joel Cope and Lisa Moore.

Michael Strait, chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Road Dept.: Heather Robinson, District Manager of Essex County Natural Resources, is helping Mark Castonguay, road foreman, to fill out the Cat D BBR application for a grant amount of \$26,020 for the culvert on the Head of the Pond Road. The Town will be responsible for matching this grant in the amount of \$6,505. This is the last culvert needed by the Arthur John Road. Michael Strait had already signed the application beforehand. Jonathan O'Keefe made a motion to validate Mike's signature for the Cat D BBR Grant. Michael Strait seconds the motion, all in favor, so carried.

Public Comment: Charlie Pronto, Jeff Johansen, and Mike Paradis were present to discuss the Newport Ambulance Service Contract. Charlie shared a copy of the draft agreement and their budget. They also shared a breakdown of what each Town will be charged for their services. Brighton's portion will cost tax payers \$56,888 for the first year. Charlie said that some of this expense is a onetime set up expense, so it is possible that service could be cheaper next year, but not likely due to other factors. The contract will be effective January 1st, 2019. Michael stated that there was no mention of the substation being in Morgan and that he would like to see it put into the contract.

Charlie explained what kind of coverage Brighton could expect of their service. We will have 24 hour coverage as we do now. They have found a place in Morgan (1/2 mile from the Morgan 4 corners toward Island Pond) to build a building that will house their ambulance. This will ensure a response time of 10-12 minutes to the Brighton area. They are hoping that the building will be built before June or July of 2019. They have hired more staffing to cover Morgan. They can always ask for mutual aid, but they feel that their own staffing will be adequate to cover all their needs in a timely manner. The ambulance has already been spending a lot of time in the Brighton area in order to familiarize themselves with our roads.

Michael stated that there was no mention in the contract of building the substation in Morgan. He would like to see it put into the contract. There is only one contract used for all of the towns served and the contract is only for one year because it is the understanding that the Selectboard's don't allow for more than one year. Joel is going to look into this matter, because Brighton would prefer a five year contract with the understanding that there may be an inflationary increase each year. Brighton will be billed monthly for the ambulance service.

Michael Strait and Joel Cope will be working together with some of the wording of the contract to make it more specific to Brighton before signing the contract.

Request for Street Light on Lakeshore Drive: Tabled

Buildings and Maintenance: Karl Chaffee has been in touch concerning the leak in the roof at the Depot building. They believe that it is coming from the flat roof area on top of the building. This may be a separate cost to the Town if it was not included in the original Depot project. Joel is checking into this. Karl is going to submit a proposal for the roof repair cost.

Fire Department Report: Rick Hannux provided the board with a list of types of fire response calls from the periods of September 1, 2017 to August 31, 2018. The board requested a more detailed report that would include dates, location, and type of calls.

Local Emergency Management Plan (LEMP): Joel shared a handout with the board on the new Local Emergency Management Plan (LEMP). The board discussed the plan. Tom Hanlon is still listed as our LEOP coordinator. Emily Harris wants to hold a LEMP meeting with the board to discuss the Town's emergency operation plan. Jonathan O'Keefe made a motion to set up a meeting with Emily Harris for the purpose of going over the LEMP. Michael Strait seconds, all in favor, so carried.

Budget report: The board reviewed the budget.

Joel will be shopping for fuel prices to lock in for the new year coming.

Pay orders: The board reviewed and signed the pay orders.

Health Insurance Option: Joel explained that Blue Cross Blue Shield sent a notice that they will no longer cover claims for employees over 65 who qualify for Medicare since we have less than 20 employees. He said that there is an Association Plan through Blue Cross Blue Shield that will cover claims under these circumstances. The plan has basically the same coverage and costs less money. The deductible is a stacked deductible rather than an aggregated. Joel suggested that the Town could create an HRA which would be the first money for deductible coverage for the employees. Joel recommended that we switch over to the Association Plan. The board agreed that he pursue membership in the BRS Option A plan for eligible employees. Joel will be getting more specific information on this.

Approve Minutes of previous meeting: The board reviewed the minutes of October 17, 2018. Jonathan O'Keefe made a motion to approve the minutes. Michael Strait seconds, all in favor, so carried.

Other Business: Joel said that there is a grant for an electrical car charging station. The board discussed that this would be another good thing for our town to offer to the public. Joel will look into this grant.

Meeting Nov. 16: There will be a round table discussion at the American Legion on November 16. Personnel from the Vermont Dept. of Taxes will be present to meet with the public. At 1:30 PM to 2:45 PM the topic will be regarding tax and legislation and at 3:00PM to 4:00 PM the discussion will cover Current Use topics.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:25 PM